



# Allouez Council # 658 – Abstracts



[www.kofc658.org](http://www.kofc658.org)

October 2023      Rock Island, IL      Vol. MMXXIII, No. 10  
Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 6575, Rock Island, IL 61204-6575

## **Grand Knight's Message:**

### **Worthy Brothers,**

I start this message with a heavy heart. We mourn the loss of our Brother Knight Lance Johnson. He passed away on the morning of September 16th. Lance was active not only in Allouez Council 658 but throughout the St. Pius Parish where he participated in many projects. He coordinated our Lenten Fish Fries for many years and was currently one of our trustees. Please remember Lance in your prayers. He will be greatly missed.

September was a busy month with several opportunities for Knights and their families to participate. There are more events coming in October and November.

It was determined by our members that the Nativity Scene that has been displayed for many years at Calvary Cemetery was beyond our capabilities to repair. Dick Hunt did some research on new scenes and came up with four possibilities. The council voted on one and the new Nativity Scene was purchased and should be on display by this Christmas Season. The cost of the new scene was covered by generous donations from members of Allouez Council 658. There is no cost to the council. Thank you to Dick Hunt for his research and thanks to everyone for their donations!

We have expanded our participation in the avenue of the flags program. This is an easy way to generate funds for our council, but because of the expansion, we can use more Knights to help with putting the flags up and taking them down. We will start our expanded participation this coming Veteran's Day. We will be putting flags up on 11/10 and taking them down on 11/12. If you can volunteer some time, contact Dave Sullivan, 309-737-5569.

**Vivat Jesus!**      *Dave Sullivan*

## **Deacon's Question Box:**

### **What happens to our bodies when we die?**

I am confused about what happens to our bodies when we die, specifically after burying the body or cremation. I would really like to know the truth about what happens to us after we die? In the readings we often hear the angels will gather us on the last day. If we are cremated or have decomposed, how can that happen – are our souls still intact?

**Answer:** Just as we do not know the precise mechanics that the creator of all used to bring the universe into being from absolute nothingness. We can not know precisely how things will work in the resurrection at the end of time. What we do have is our faith. Informed by the divinely inspired writers of sacred scripture, the early church fathers and the spirit led study of theologians throughout the last 2,000 years. Our Church teaches that immediately after death, our soul separates from our earthly body and we stand before God for judgement. We then enter Heaven, Purgatory or Hell. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. Those who are free from all sin enter heaven immediately. Purgatory is a place of purification, for those who die in a state of grace and friendship with God but who are not yet fully purified and ready to enter heaven. Those in Purgatory are assured a place in heaven after their purification. We pray for those in Purgatory, that they may soon be with God in heaven. At the end of time, When Christ returns, the bodies of all men, women, and children who have ever lived will be reunited with their souls: the just will be united eternally, body and soul, with God in Heaven, the damned will be separated eternally, body and soul, from God in Hell. We treat the remains of the deceased with dignity and respect. This is a societal manifestation of our Judeo-Christian heritage that reverences the mortal remains of God's highest creation on earth. Man, who was made from the dust of the earth, is placed back into that dust upon the completion of his earthly pilgrimage. His body will return to dust, but Christ has taught us that this is not the final word. Those bodies are his, in waiting, and they should be given a fitting resting place.

We should also remember The Church does not approve of cremation; it permits it. It does not permit the scattering of ashes or their retention in homes; it forbids it. It considers burial the most fitting way to care for the bodies of the dead until they rise again on the last day and urges us to follow that recommendation.

**Feel free to drop me a question for this column. Questions may be dropped off on the head table at a Council Meeting or sent via email to Deacon Russ Swim, Assistant Chaplain, [rpswim@mchsi.com](mailto:rpswim@mchsi.com), phone 786-3097. Feel free to drop me a question for this column.**

**Birthdays:**

25 Brother Knights are celebrating a birthday this month. May they live as long as they want and never want as long as they live.

William Axup	Vernon Wegerer	Walter Braud	Francis Adlfinger	Kent Malinowski	James Wieland	Kap Thang
David Brickner	Joseph Conicella	Mark Schaecher	Yves Fontaine	John Harlow	Kevin Lenart	John Swan III
Michael Bell	Richard Cervantes	JK Lammang	James O Donnell	William Seaver	Adam Doyle	

**Anniversaries:**

Congratulations to the 14 couples celebrating their wedding anniversary this month. May they celebrate many more!

Gregory & Charlene Vogeles 10-01-2000	John & Theresa Wright 10-03-1981	Ross & Nancy Hanna 10-05-1996
Marcus & Laura Cortez 10-06-2001	David & Connie Cray 10-06-1951	Dr Charles & Dorothy Gerleman 10-08-1955
David Jr & Lorraine Emerick 10-10-1992	Matthew & Sara Klauer 10-11-2003	David & Debra Valiquette 10-13-1973
John & Pam Walsh 10-18-1969	Jeffrey & Renae Hoskins 10-24-1992	Tom & Julie Lawrence 10-25-1986
Michael & Debra Roman 10-27-1984	Robert & Krista Graff 10-28-1995	

*We want to recognize all our members' birthdays & anniversaries, but we can't if you don't tell us what this important date in your life is. Please email our Financial Secretary, Dick Hunt, rjhunt1951@gmail.com, so he can add to or correct our records.*

**Pray for Our Members & Families, Sick or In Distress:**

We pray for our Brother Knights & families who are ill or otherwise incapacitated. Please email [AllouezCouncil@Gmail.com](mailto:AllouezCouncil@Gmail.com) to update. We remember the following members in our prayers:

Elizabeth Brueggen	Jim Cecil	Achiel Dupont	Gene Fowler	Jerry Fowler	Jim Fobert	Louis Granato III
Joseph Lazio	Norma Manning	Deacon Paul Martin	Tina Olson	Mike Pacheco	Jean Paprocki	Red Pearson
Mary Jo Pulford	Sue Schaecher	Jerry Schroeder	Jack Showalter	Bob Spalding	Deacon Russ Swim	
Richard Tipton	Jim Wells	William Weston	Betty VanDeVoorde			

*We pray, O God, that You look with pity on Your servants who suffer. Ease their pain & comfort their loneliness. Give them the grace to bear this cross patiently with You in Christian reparation. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*

**3-Digit Daily Raffle Game:**

The 3-digit daily raffle game is a great way to contribute to your council's general fund and have a chance to win money every day. For \$10 every 4 months (\$27 for the full year), you have a chance to win \$25 every weekday and at least \$50 on weekends!

Here is a list of the winners in our 3-digit daily raffle since our last newsletter:

September 5th	#014	Kathy Belzer	\$25
September 12th	#110	Sheryl Lackey	\$25
September 15th	#037	Mary Wells	\$25

Congratulations to our winners! Thank you to all who participate! If you would like to buy an available number(s) please contact David Sullivan: (309)737-5569 or [david.sullivan1@mchsi.com](mailto:david.sullivan1@mchsi.com). Each 3 digit number is \$27 per year OR \$10 per four month period; January-April, May-August, or September-December. Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus, & mail your payment to:

Allouez Council 658  
P.O. Box 6575  
Rock Island, IL 61204-6575

**Vocation Raffle Report:**

Sorry I messed up and filed no reports for the last 2 months. Just want you to know we are falling short but it is not too late to turn things around. The drawing is in December and the deadline for ticket returns is early November. So please dig up those tickets you set aside and send a few or all back in the self addressed envelope. We have 8 seminarians from this area, something we can be proud of. So let us show our monetary support. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Vivat Jesus!**

Jim Wieland, Chairman  
2536 21st Ave  
Rock Island, IL

**Reminder of Upcoming Holy Hour:**

October 12<sup>th</sup>  
 5:00 PM, St. Pius X, Rock Island, IL  
 (prior to light dinner and Council meeting)

**New Nativity Display at Calvary Mausoleum:**

As noted in the Grand Knight's Message, it was determined by our members that the Nativity displayed at Calvary Cemetery was beyond our capabilities to repair. Considerable research was done to find a suitable replacement Nativity display. Thanks to generous donations from several of our Brother Knights, the cost of the new Nativity was fully funded by donations and there was no cost to our Council. **Thank you to all who donated toward the new Nativity display.**

**Pro-Life Message:**

The world doesn't need population control; it needs families. Day after day we hear the phrase "population control." We hear laments that the planet is overcrowded and running out of resources. It seems that many people (the elites) care more about the planet than the human beings who inhabit it. Among the solutions to this problem, they say, is the idea that we should limit the amount of people on the planet. But that is not a good or viable solution. In fact, it just introduces a whole new set of problems. While of course we must take care of the planet and do our best to conserve resources and reduce pollution, we must never do so at the expense of human beings. So, what are we to do when we hear talk of overpopulation? How do we combat the argument that large families, especially in developing countries, are detrimental rather than beneficial to society? We do so with education. How does the West control Population Growth in the developing world? Though the US Department of State website on population claims that "the U.S. does not endorse population 'stabilization' or 'control'" and that "the 'ideal' family size should be determined by the desires of couples, not governments," the US is a major contributor to organizations to that seek to control populations via birth control, sterilization, and abortions. The State Department's website explains that "the U.S. strongly opposes coercive population programs." And therein lies the caveat. While organizations such as Marie Stopes have been investigated or suspended from countries for performing illegal abortions and sterilizations, other organizations seek to make mindset changes by convincing people that multiple children are harmful, that children hold women back from reaching their potential, and that multiple children keep families from climbing out of poverty. But inhabitants of other countries, such as those in Africa, tell a different story. Obianuju Ekeocha is an African woman who started an initiative called Culture of Life Africa. According to the website, "The threat of the Culture of Death is now real and imminent as we are beginning to see the undeniable attempts to limit, suppress and even destroy the source of human life.

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This is coming into Africa in the form of population control measures being emphatically proposed, promoted and propagated from one nation to the next. Culture of Life Africa is “a heartfelt cry for people of good will from around the world to consider . . . how the introduction and promotion of the selfish and superficial anti-life culture is sure to unleash irreparable damage and carnage in Africa where new life in the womb brings hope to the hearts of many and where communal family life gives strength and fortitude to struggling men and women to prevail against all odds.” The site explains that African nations have seen “astronomical amounts of money being raised by rich western philanthropists in order to ‘donate’ to poor nations solely for the purpose of reducing the ‘burdensome’ fertility of their women,” and that abortion lobbyists push African leaders toward legalizing abortion in their countries. To hear Obianuju Ekeocha’s story is to truly understand the plight of people in developing countries and the manipulation they face as western cultures attempt to impose their beliefs on indigenous peoples. It is a travesty that we must not only be aware of but fight against. How Did We Get Here? Proponents of population control argue adamantly that there are too many people on the planet and that resources will someday be scarce. Yet, we can look at fertility rates and understand that we are not in a dire situation—at least not in the way population control advocates think. According to a National Catholic Register article, the worldwide fertility rate dropped from 4.7 in 1950 to 2.4 in 2021. That’s a huge decline! It’s expected to decline even further over the next 40 years. The article reports that “every industrialized nation has been at below-replacement fertility for some time.” For example, the US is currently at 1.78 births per woman, which is far below the replacement level of 2.1. Why is this number so low? It’s low due to a combination of birth control, abortion, couples starting families later in life, and the general mindset that large families are burdensome. The NCR article reports that a little less than half of the world’s population of women of childbearing age now use some form of artificial contraception. Not only that, but there are 73 million abortions every year. Add that mentality to the fear of climate change and the fear that people are harming the planet, and you have a recipe for a culture that seeks to destroy children under the guise of sustainability. In 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs released an article explaining that UN member states agreed to implement a plan on population and development, with the intention of achieving what it called “sustainable development goals.” These countries reaffirmed the commitment they made in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development to implement the objectives of the Programme of Action. The goals of this Programme of Action include laudable ones such as reduced child and maternal mortality, advances in gender equality, and increased life expectancy. But they also included increased access to “sexual and reproductive healthcare.” And by that, it means, of course, contraception and abortion. According to the article, access to contraception and abortion is “key for sustainable development.” It then quotes UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Ashley Judd, who said that “sexual and reproductive health of girls and women are at the heart of poverty eradication and sustainable development.” In other words, we must destroy families in order to save the planet. This is the mentality Obianuju Ekeocha is fighting so hard against. A 2019 Population Matters article addresses the belief that population growth and consumption are the “two main causes of global warming.” Co-written by the organization’s director, this article asserts that the population growth between 1960 and 2000 contributed to increased pollution, overcrowding in cities, and a greater demand for water and land. The authors then state that the existing research into how our planet can sustain the growth of people “fails to quantify the benefits of minimizing further population increases.” It goes on to say that an additional sustainable goal would be to “dampen population growth” by promoting funding for contraception and abortion, which they say has a “proven track record of success, not only in reducing births rapidly, but also in advancing the empowerment of women and spurring economic progress.” The author’s state that there would be no “coercive” measures needed but that a “wider awareness of the linkage between family size and ecological sustainability can help parents recognize the benefits of having fewer children.” In other words, these groups should convince women that children are not only a detriment to their individual families but to society and to the planet. And these organizations believe that this “empowers” women or frees them from the “bonds” of family. Yet all it really does is make them beholden to a daily pill, convince them to deny their femininity, and make children their enemies. A closer look at these sustainable goals gives us a little deeper explanation of each of them. Under the heading Gender Equality the concept of empowerment for women and girls is explained. One of the methods of empowering them is to “ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.” The article concludes by saying that, while reproductive rights and family planning are part of these sustainable goals, none of them comes right out and says that they must be used to reduce population growth. The authors hope to make that change, saying that this can then lead to reduced birth rates.

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The organizations that promote abortion and birth control for reasons of attempting to reverse climate change also often advocate for halting development in poor countries by suppressing their populations and discouraging investment in energy infrastructure. Economic growth requires a certain number of the population to be of working age (i.e., not a child and not an elderly person). When people can work toward the betterment of the community, city, or country, this strengthens the infrastructure. But when organizations seek to reduce the population, this decreases in the number of people who can work and who can build strong families weakens the economy, which then keeps poor people poor. This endless cycle of poverty threatens the well-being of those who are born, but it also gives fodder to those who are pro-abortion, as they think: How could all these poor people afford a baby? And thus they conclude that abortion must be the “right” choice. If you think that only a few organizations promote these “reproductive rights” and “family planning services” for the “good” of the planet, you would be mistaken. There are many such organizations. There is no dearth of money going to developing countries for these services. And thus, millions of dollars every year are poured into developing countries with the intention of eliminating people. Just imagine the good that could be done if this money were instead directed toward schools, roads, healthcare that does not kill, and clean water. It is clear that population control efforts are inherently anti-life and anti-family. They promote a culture of death where children are thought of as burdens, where their lives are callously taken away via abortion, and where men are increasingly held less responsible as their partners are encouraged to dispose of the baby who resulted from their union. Killing some people or reducing family size in an attempt to make the world less populated or to reduce “climate change” is not only erroneous thinking, but it’s born of selfishness, for it reduces human beings to things that can be used or discarded at will. Killing people and destroying families is not what is best for others. Families are the foundation of society. Societies thrive when families remain intact, when parents lovingly bring up their children, and when children then care for their parents as they age. This is the love that families beget and sustain. Anyone who has children knows that they make a family richer just by their very existence. It is not family size we should limit, and it is not children we should destroy. These are not the ways to combat the ecological problems we have here on earth. To solve these problems, we must build up families, strengthen communities, implement plans to care for the earth that don’t involve contraception and abortion, and build and solidify infrastructure. This is what will make us stronger—as humans and as a society. Children are not an obstacle to development; they are the hope for the future of any society. People are not the problem—they are the solution.

**Jack Swan – Pro-Life Director**

### **Emmaus Procession — Saturday, October 7th, 2023 :**

The Emmaus Procession began with Jesus and two disciples. Luke's Gospel (24:13-15) tells us "That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had just happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them."

The Emmaus Procession in the Quad Cities is a recreation of the 'walk to Emmaus' that Luke wrote about in his Gospel. The day will begin with a Mass at Sacred Heart in Moline at 8:00 AM, At the conclusion of this Mass, the procession will proceed to St Mary's in Moline and then across the I-74 bridge to Our Lady of Lourdes in Bettendorf. Several of our Brother Knights will be carrying the canopy over the Monstrance containing the Holy Eucharist.



### **Jordan Catholic School Blood Drive — Monday, October 9th, 2023:**

From 1:30pm to 6:00pm, Jordan Catholic School Blood Drive, Farrell Hall Gym, Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

By donating at this blood drive, you are helping Jordan Catholic School earn a \$250 Lifesavings Grant.

Thank you for supporting Jordan with a blood donation.

## BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

**Jordan Catholic School**  
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus


**Monday, October 9**  
1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*St. Pius Catholic Church – Farrell Hall Gym*

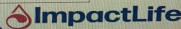
To schedule, contact Louie Alongi at 309-238-6796 or Email [alongilouie@gmail.com](mailto:alongilouie@gmail.com) or scan QR Code

LAST DAY TO DONATE IS: MONDAY  
Whole Blood Donors: 8/14  
Double Red Donors: 8/14

By donating at this blood drive, you are helping Jordan Catholic School earn a \$250 Lifesavings Grant.  
Thank you for supporting blood donation.



SCAN ME!



**Trivia Night — Saturday, October 21st, 2023:**

Allouez Council #658 presents:

***Think and Drink Trivia Night***

Saturday, October 21st, 2023, Doors open at 6:00 PM  
Farrell Hall at Jordan Catholic School  
2901 24th St  
Rock Island, IL

First Place Prize     \$240

Second Place Prize   \$160

Third Place Prize     \$ 80

Cost: \$80 per Team.

To register, text name to (563) 343-3373.

Soft drinks and Alcohol sold on the premises.

No outside drinks may be carried in.

Bring your own food and snacks.

**Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney:**

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*make your request here*).

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**Upcoming Events and Activities** (changes or updates will be noted in next month's Newsletter)**October**

1	Coffee & Conversation, McCarthy Hall, St. Pius X, Rock Island	After 8:00am and 10:30am Masses
2	Allouez Council #658 <b>Officers Meeting</b> , Farrell Hall, St Pius X, Rock Island	6:30pm
5	4th Degree Honor Guard Practice Session, St. Ambrose, Milan	5:30pm
5	Father Bader Assembly #1922 4th Degree Meeting, St. Ambrose, Milan	6:30pm
7	Emmaus Procession Opening Mass, Sacred Heart, Moline	8:00am
7	Emmaus Procession, Sacred Heart, Moline to Our Lady of Victory, Bettendorf	After Opening Mass at Sacred Heart
9	Jordan School Fall Blood Drive, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X, Rock Island	1:30pm to 6:00pm
12	Allouez Council #658 <b>Holy Hour</b> , St. Pius X, Rock Island	5:00pm
12	Allouez Council #658 <b>Council Meeting</b> , Farrell Hall, St Pius X, Rock Island	6:00pm Light Meal, 7:00pm Meeting
18	Midwest Food Bank Distribution, Stern Beverage, 961 Tech Dr, Milan	9:00am to 11:30am
21	Think and Drink Trivia Night, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X, Rock Island	6:00pm to 9:00pm

**November**

4	Allouez Council #658 Deceased Members Mass, Sacred Heart, Rock Island	4:00pm
4	Allouez Council #658 Columbus Awards Dinner, St. Mary's, Rock Island	After 4:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart
5	Coffee & Conversation, McCarthy Hall, St. Pius X, Rock Island	After 8:00am and 10:30am Masses
6	Allouez Council #658 <b>Officers Meeting</b> , Farrell Hall, St Pius X, Rock Island	6:30pm
9	Allouez Council #658 <b>Council Meeting</b> , Farrell Hall, St Pius X, Rock Island	6:00pm Light Meal, 7:00pm Meeting
10	Veterans Day Avenue of Flags — put flags up	Any time after dawn
12	Veterans Day Avenue of Flags — take flags down	Any time prior to dusk
21	Midwest Food Bank Distribution, Stern Beverage, 961 Tech Dr, Milan	9:00am to 11:30am

**December**

3	Coffee & Conversation, McCarthy Hall, St. Pius X, Rock Island	After 8:00am and 10:30am Masses
4	Allouez Council #658 <b>Officers Meeting</b> , Farrell Hall, St Pius X, Rock Island	6:30pm
14	Allouez Council #658 <b>Council Meeting</b> , Farrell Hall, St Pius X, Rock Island	6:00pm Light Meal, 7:00pm Meeting

**Have Questions or Suggestions, or want to Volunteer: Contact a Council Officer****Grand Knight:** Dave Sullivan 309-737-5569**Deputy Grand Knight:** John Doak 309-236-0296**Chaplain:** Fr Witold Adamczyk 226-703-0503**Assistant Chaplain:** Deacon Russ Swim 309-786-3097**Recorder:** Kevin Barton 309-721-8316**Advocate:** Kevin Houser 309-314-4718**Treasurer:** Chuck Gibbs 563-343-3373**Warden:** John Perez 309-373-8258**Inside Guard:** Scott Perez 309-798-6685**Outside Guard:** Jeff Schaecher 309-737-4116**Financial Secretary:** Dick Hunt 309-737-8349, or email – rjhunt1951@gmail.com

Or send an email to our Council's email address – AllouezCouncil@gmail.com

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